

NARWHAL on 8 September in Norfolk. Unfortunately, don't as yet have Ray's next duty station.

Speaking of next duty stations, I guess one could say that I'm well into the saddle of SUPPOdom in BOXER. Even though it has been only three years or so since my last sea tour, I am amazed at the changes that have occurred! It's still fun... give me another 5 months... don't know if I'll still be of the same opinion! Seriously, LHD's bring a whole new capability to today's Navy, especially with the emphasis on littoral warfare. Really am glad to have the opportunity to support this ship! If any of you are in the San Diego area give the BOXER a call and lunch is on me!

Finally, I received a moving letter from Jay Salyer, '80, who relates his impression of **Joe Kleefisch**. It speaks volumes about who WE are and what WE stand for... it may be possible that maybe we should think about this and maybe try to be a bit more like our fallen comrade:

To the Class of '76

As you know from the June *Shipmate*, you lost a Classmate, **Joe Kleefisch**. For those of you who had lost touch with Joe, I would like to fill in some of the blanks by relating my personal experience with your Classmate. At the time when Joe was still admiring his new ensign shoulder boards, I was trying on my dixie cup. So, my first experience with Joe was in Beeville, Texas. I was finishing up my jet training, and he was my LSO. Though four years my senior, he had a friendly, helpful demeanor that made me feel comfortable during an intense period of training. I bumped into him later at NAS Lemoore and was glad to see him report to VA-127, Lemoore's adversary squadron, as I was preparing to leave the squadron and the Navy. Reputed as a skilled aviator, he was greeted with much enthusiasm upon his arrival and soon became feared by all those he faced in air-to-air engagements. It was not long before he worked his way to the much sought assignment of commanding officer of one of the finest F/A-18 squadrons, VFA-25. The flight on which he lost his life was to be one of his very last. His change of command was approaching that month. Joe was on a flight for which he was perfectly suited—demonstrating the capabilities of a fine aircraft to the commander of his battle group.

No one can argue Joe's skill as an aviator and leader, but it was his devotion to his family for which he received the most respect and admiration. He had a deep love for his wife, Nan, and his boys, Joseph and Matthew, were his pride and joy. When his duties allowed him to spend time at home, he gave his boys his constant attention, whether it was baseball, basketball, Boy Scouts or projects in the garage. I still remember the Pinewood Derby when Joe entertained the crowd with his tape of "Set Sail". He was a devoted husband and father, an integral part of our community.

The most moving ceremony I have attended since arriving at NAS Lemoore in 1982 was Joe's memorial service. Fittingly, it was held in his hangar, and it appeared at first glance as if it could have been his change of command. Though they had seating for four hundred, they easily had double. There were prayers, eulogies and a stirring flyover, but the most evident were the feelings of love and loss. Following the service, a broad cross section of the local citizenry paid tribute to the fallen warrior and spoke fondly of the many ways he touched so many.

My hope is that you will now know Joe as the man he grew up to be. You should be very proud of your Classmate.

Jay Salyer

Class of '80

Thanks, Jay



1845

1995

77

Membership: 80%

Pres., Cdr. **Owen G. Thorp III** USNR
Sec'y, Cdr. **Bill Millward** USN
1026 Magnolia Ave. Norfolk, VA 23508

78

Membership: 85%

Pres., **John Rudder**
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**
45 Little Fawn Dr., Shelton, CT 06484

Remember back to Computers One, sitting at those old clackety clackety terminals in Ward Hall, working on that telemetry program? Just as you were about to put the results of your sweat to "Save", some dill weed somewhere put the system in a perpetual loop. Well, I've been caught in the loop. Suffice it to say, that added to such Great Mysteries of All Time, as whatever happened to Amelia Earhart, the conspiracy theory, Coca-Cola's recipe and what are the lyrics to "Louie Louie" and what do they MEAN, is where the heck is the second half of that last column I printed?! Our fine editors did their best to retrieve it from the land of ones and zeroes. But like a firstie with the last piece of dessert and a politician with the truth—the system just wasn't going to give it up! Even my old IBM think-less pad wouldn't cough it up. Not to worry, like the Twilight Zone lost episodes it'll come up sooner or later. As for where this column's been the last couple of months—well I was hoping you wouldn't notice. But one thing about being prolific in the past—deficiencies are detected. It's like **Skip Root's** campaign speech at the end of Plebe Year—nope, ain't no way to miss that finishing, um—smile. So, I sit—chastised and embarrassed—I gotta fall back on one of those three responses we learned over *Reef Points*—No Excuse, Sir! (But if you buy me a beer I'll Doug Whiner like a civilian.) To make amends, for starters, watch these pages fill up. So, let's get started. Move over KR, I've let you use my space long enough!

The following letter erases a debt of **Rick Martinez** to **Jeff Fowler** and **Joe Leidig**. Back at PCO School he promised them he would write *Shipmate*. Rick reshaped some info that some of you may recall was in this column so loooong ago. Jeff is CO of CHARLOTTE; Joe—skipper of CAVALLA. As for Rick, he's the CO of GATO, just up the street in Groton. He's got a pretty balanced perspective on the job saying that "it's great...and as frustrating as it sometimes gets, it's all worth it." He and Patti have three kids, Tess (6), Ricky (4) and Julianne (2) and that's where it ends. He states emphatically that you won't find them competing with Misti and **Art Athens**. He writes further that **Jon Sears** is PCO of MICHIGAN out of Bangor, WA. **John Ehlers** is a Deputy at COMSUBRON Two in Groton. Like Barney Fife, they don't give him more than one bullet or one major problem per day to shoot down. Rick reports that it's nice having a Classmate's support at the squadron when he needs it. **Brent Obenour** finds the time away from his full time of USPA/IRA hawking to JOs to play reserves at Groton, once in a while. Rick got a phone call from **Stan Labak** who also lives in the nutmeg state. Stan is out of the Navy and enjoying life (as if the two are otherwise mutually exclusive—well, yes—sometimes). There weren't any details on Stan though except for that description of Civilianed Ecstasy. **Tony Quatroche** is XO of the base at Groton. He took over the job in April after

having served at Submarine Development Squadron Twelve. In closing, Rick noted that our Classmate and long-distance Class Board member, **Jack Christianson**, is now married and living at the American embassy in Moscow. That's not Moscow, Idaho, but THE Moscow—as in Russia, land of the bread line and anti-freeze cocktail. Jack had done a previous tour there so this is penance for prior experience not banishment for having stolen the heart of the wonderful Jill. Still marital harmony can thaw things out—even the Russian tundra. If not, there's always the Stoli! Thanks for the note, Rick.



The Fowler Family

Among the neat perks seniority brings you guys is the use of all that free CO's stationery. **John Cohoon** took advantage of that back in April to drop me a line about some of the 78ers he's seen running around the Hawaiian Islands. Last fall **Keith Sauls** took command of ASPRO (SSN-648). I know what an SSN is—one of the tube like things that go underwater, glows in the dark and is named after fish—so what kind of fish is an Aspro—dog fish variation? Nope, that's Alpo. Well, as the skipper, Keith should be able to answer that bit of naval trivia. John reported that this past March, **Bill Timme** assumed the conn, the deck and the whole shebang of HEL-ENA. As for John, he took over BUFFALO back in September of '94. He says command is great and Hawaii is a wonderful spot that he and Barbara enjoy exploring. Just to show all is not lost out on the islands, John reported on a few Classmates back in CONUS. **Chris Slack** is skipper of OHIO in Bremerton, WA and **Mel Williams** has a Trident in Kings Bay, GA. Above the waters, **Rudy Costanzo** is CO of VAW-124 in Virginia. **Paul Pietsch** has the LAMPS guys of HSL-49 at NAS North Island in San Diego, CA. He just took over this past February. Thanks for the quick note, John. Don't let my slow writing discourage you from using the free note paper. Now just figure out a way to having it franked.

Lloyd Prince dropped me quick post card to note that back in April he joined ValueJet Airlines, as Director of Safety. He states that he "Couldn't ask to be in a better place!!" I'm not sure if he meant the city of Atlanta or the job—or both. Either way it means we have another way station during the Olympic Games. Lloyd said that **Jeff Carpenter** flies out of Dulles. I presume also with ValueJet, and that **Bill Larimore** just left to join FedEx. As the rest of the Princes, they remain in Jacksonville, FL. Quick on the corporate loyalty curve, Lloyd used a ValueJet postcard to bring me up to date. I appreciate it, Lloyd, though the picture on it compares in takeoff gross weight to the post card Loren Divers once sent me your DC-9 has much sleeker lines than Loren's Hula Heifer.

Fellow lightweight crew dog-body buddy, **Sean McCloskey** dropped me a quick line to announce that his wife, Anne, delivered an 8 lb., 14 oz. boy on May 6th, 1995—Riley Scott McCloskey. Mom and son were doing great! Sean's hoping everyone can get out to Annapolis for the 150th this fall. I hope we can get a boat together and NAIL IT! (The photo of Riley is great, Sean. But editorial rules say I have to have your ugly mug or some other alum's face in the photo. Why they gotta ruin a perfectly good shot

is beyond me. At least get your elbow in the shot!)

For all you West Coast CLASSMATES, Steve Shatynski, ('83) wants me to remind you of the West Coast Alumni 150th Celebration. "The L.A./Orange County, CA Chapter of the Alumni Association is proud to host this year's gala celebration of the 150th anniversary of the USNA." The Ball will take place on October 15, 1995 at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California. The Ball will be a first class event and will be attended by numerous celebrity alumni and friends of the Naval Academy. Seating will be by class, and Steve and I highly encourage you to be there. Heck, even you out of towners visiting the area are welcome. Just bring your bucks and proof of alumni status—alumni card, class ring, Form 2 or standard cynical, disinterested, demeanor, or corfams-with-Peerless-suit look. Details are somewhere in this mag or just ask your parakeet to give back last month's issue.

Mark Munson wrote me with updates on a few people he has been in contact with:

Jeff Fowler, 12th Co.: I couldn't resist including a photo of Jeff in the cab of a combine in North Dakota...wait, it's a shot from the sail structure of CHARLOTTE (SSN-766), in the Caribbean! [Actually it looks like Jeff is caught in the great Bermuda Triangle Garlic Press!] [As reported above] Jeff took command of CHARLOTTE in early December '94 in Norfolk. Although he, Katie, Brittany, Lynsee, and Connor are currently living in Virginia Beach (Katie's hometown), this Fall they will "transition" to Pearl Harbor.



Jeff Fowler at the Conn!

Jack Christianson, 31st Co.: In December '94, Jack finished up a 2 year assignment at the On-Site Inspection Agency (OIA). He's now the Officer in Charge of the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Office at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The CTR Program calls for the U. S. Government to help the four nuclear successor states of the former Soviet Union downsize their nuclear and chemical weapon stockpiles. I don't think that Jack ever imagined he would be "submerged" in Moscow as a submariner! Seriously, Jack did a great job at OSIA and received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal upon his departure. The enclosed photo of Jack was taken in India on a "layover" after a quick exit from Tajikistan in the 1993 time frame.



Jack Christianson in India 1993



Vance Berry, Norm Dellinger

As a reservist assigned to a unit that supports the Office of the Naval Inspector General (NAVINGEN 106), I've had the pleasure of getting to know a number of fellow alumni—including two Classmates: **Vance Berry**, 14th CO: Vance recently moved from Richmond, VA to Charlotte, NC where he joined KMPG Peat Marwick as a Senior Consultant in Manufacturing, Retail and Distribution. Prior to joining the NAVINGEN 106 Unit out of Washington in October 94, Vance served as Reserve XO of NSC Norfolk HQ, B-306. Armed with an MS in Operations Research from NPG and an MBA from the University of Richmond, Vance is doing very well. (He has also become an expert on NASCAR racing due to his new geographic location.)

Norm Dellinger, 25th Co: Norm has been in the NAVINGEN 106 Unit since October 93 and in his civilian job has been helping the Navy "restructure" a portion of itself. In his own words, you will find him "turning submarines and CGNs into razor blades as NAVSEA's nuclear ship inactivation and recycling manager. "Norm's sense of humor—finely tuned since USNA days—keeps us on our toes."

Thanks for the updates on Jeff, Jack and the rest—not to mention the photos. Any of you get down to Centreville, VA, look up Mark.

The summer season for changes of orders and command came and went. Among the passdowns—**Skip Bayes** took command of HS-15 on Sept 6th at NAS Jacksonville. **Roger Welch** also assumed command of VFA-24 on May 17th. On September 14th, **Glen Ives** was relieved (yes, on time) as CO of HSL-42. His next assignment is as Ops Officer on GUAM (LPH-9). More info on these in the next editions.

Duane Young ('49) sent me a photo of our own **Mark "Beau" James** and his daughter, Jessica, at

last year's USNA Atlanta Chapter's Lobster Fest. The picture's dated (like my column) but the news that's still current is that Mark remains a "key" man in the Alumni Chapter's activities—handling records and arranging various activities working with their Chapter President Paul Hurst ('64). As the '96 Olympics draws nearer, I'm sure one of those activities will be a party or two to celebrate the U.S. Teams. Even better, I suggest coordinating a "billeting plan" for Alumni coming in town to view the games, like yours truly.



Mark and Jessica James

Alan "Blues" Baker is the Command Chaplain at the Coast Guard Support Center on Governor's Island, New York. It's just a seven minute ferry ride from Battery Park in Manhattan and has a million dollar view of the Statue of Liberty. The only thing it didn't have at the time was base housing. He's on a wait list. So far, the housing officer is promising an opening in November. Of course he didn't specify what year. Al swears if you close your eyes he sounds like a detailer. Once he gets settled into housing, Marla and the kids will join him. Until then, he's "geographic". Alan sent me a couple of editions of his "News at Ten" 10th Company Newsletter. It's a seasonal two page dope sheet on the comings and goings of the Good Times Ten. He's got a pretty classy layout—complete with Banner, columns and graphic insets. Here's a guy who obviously is into the desk top publishing software. I guess they taught more than Psalms 101 at Chaplain School. Here's a bit of what I got from "News at Ten" spring and summer issues of '95.

Carolyn and **John Ehlers** had a new addition to the family last December—Carolyn Anne. Al was more specific about John's job as Deputy job at SUBRON 2 than **Rick Martinez** was. John is the Deputy for Readiness. That means he gets free rides on all the squadron's boats to help prepare them for inspections. He also enjoys his workshop making furniture and swing sets. He's opting to be the next Norm Abrams in the after-Navy life—welcome to John's Baaaston Workshop. Patty doubles in tax preparation and dried flowers, not to mention mommyming. **George "Skid" DeMarco** lives in New Jersey (don't know what exit). He is an account executive for E.J.V. Partners, a vendor to brokerage firms on Wall Street. His office is a block from Wall Street in South Manhattan and George has been there for about the last four years. He's one of the endangered species—single and a full fledged member of the Bachelor until the Rapture Club. He gave up the drilling reservist bit last October opting for the IRR.

Donnae and **John Curtis** are Odentonland, MD. John works at the Naval Research Lab in DC as the remote sensing division military deputy. He screened for command and has been split-touring in DC until the command tour opens up. Donnae manages house, family and now that she's gone back to college—homework. According to Al, John's oldest daughter, Ashley (13) is outpacing her old man's fiscal input through the highly lucrative world of babysitting. The job's pretty much like the military but with baby-sitting you can claim the overtime. Nathan

**Our United States
Naval Academy
is 150 Years Young!
Beat Army!**

(10) joined the ranks of the "carded" and doesn't need mom or dad to buy stuff at the exchange for him. Meredith (7) successfully read 42 books in this summer's reading program which of course is more books than her dad read during the entire four years in Bancroft.

Regina and **Garry Simpson** are living 20 miles north of Atlanta in the community of Woodstock, GA. Married over 2 1/2 years they have a toddler, Garry Jr. Garry is a co-pilot on 767s for Delta and is homebased in "Hot-lanta". You all will appreciate Garry's "Best Academy Memory" profiled "New at Ten"—"Graduation—I kept waiting for a tap on my shoulder and the question: 'What are you doing in this line?'" Of course his worst academy memory was about some guy who wouldn't stop talking. You figure it out.

Well, that does it now. I hope I can cram this all into my limit by changing fonts. Look for an All-Marine Column in November (well, a dominantly Marine column). In it, a dusted off letter from **Jim Shulson**, **Jock Maloney** sightings and finally—LtCol selections for '78. In closing—happy birthday Mother B—150 Years old? You don't look a day over—78!

It's GREAT TO BE BACK! I'm outta here. launchin, Spot Four!

79

Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**

210 South Main Street, PO Box 380, Arlington, SD 57212 (605) 983-4777

It's short, it's sweet and I'm trying to get a whole-sale order glazed and shipped. But, that's okay 'cause Mr. P.O. Box has been void of mail for a while, there's not a lot o' news. **Tom Phelan** just took over the VAQ-140 Patriots at Whidbey. Tom, huge congrats to you! **Tom Amirault** sent an e-mail message so here goes:

Hey, Tall, Dark, and Muscular (little does Tom know that I've become a fat tub of goo, but apparently I do meet the weight and fitness standards of the Citadel if a Supreme Court judge told them to let me in): Greetings, you great big hunk of crew jock. If you don't get this message, let me know and I will find out what is wrong with this e-mail address I got from Doughball. If you do get this message, ring me back and I will send you a longer one in which we can get back up to date with each other. I hope you get this! Hi, Vicki! Tom.

Tom sent another one but I can't find it here on this new WPOL. THANKS TWOM!!

Oh yeah, I found **Don Beeler's** letter! He's in Castro Valley and is the Health and Safety Manager for Morrison Knudsen. His wife Becky is a pediatrician in a small group practice in Oakland. Their daughter Laurie is ready to start school this September. Don said I'd love the winters up here in SD. He's right. They're too severe and cold for the wonderful pieces of the population for which California is so famous. So they won't be showin' up. Nor will the fruits and nuts. Don, sorry about the one month delay and thanks for the info. The Janet Reno Internet message on the back of the note was pretty darned entertaining.

Next month, FHTNR's and hopefully more comedy from your Give King. But then again if you like the shortness, maybe just FHTNR's will be printed. Later. **Ken. '79, Omnes Viri.**

80

Membership: 97%

Pres., **Tim Kobosko**

Sec'y, LCdr. **Joseph A. Grace, Jr. USNR**
15 Allard Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70119
(504)539-9255; fax (504)539-9257

81

Membership: 97%

Pres., **Robert D. Ravener, Jr.**

Sec'y, LCdr. **Peter Sciarbarra USN**
6200 Roudsby Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310

Greetings '81

Greetings '81

And hello once again from our nation's capital. (only 17 more months to go) As you can probably tell, detailing just remains a thoroughly enjoyable endeavor. About the only plus is the number of Classmates I continually run into on a daily basis. Is our whole Class either in DC or enroute here? It sure seems that way at times. Only two letters in the mailbox this month. I'm hoping the approach of Fall will spur your corresponding, if only to vent your frustration about the latest Navy football effort. Speaking of which, for those in the area, be sure to look for the Class of '81 tent at all home football games. I believe it will usually be fairly close or adjacent to the Quonset hut.

On the hometown news release wire this month were the following: **Tilghman Payne** is the XO onboard KISKA. **Frank Arata** is onboard KINKAID. **Jim Stewart** is on AUBREY FITCH out of Mayport. **Rob Winsor** is on the staff of COMUSNAVCENT in lovely Manama, Bahrain. **Paul Ims** is on the fast attack sub, TOPEKA. And the following Classmates all graduated from Naval War College this past June: **Kevin Hogan**, **Jim Murray** and **Ken Lewko**.

Mark Thaller wrote from Philadelphia to detail his experiences in his try-out for the *American Gladiators* TV show. Mark did superbly in a field of 3000 potential "gladiators", missing the cut by a single slot. He was 13th in a field of twelve selectees. For those of you that are curious, and to allay any needless effort to get in shape, Mark's numbers were: 41 chin-ups in 30 seconds, 115 push-ups in one minute, a 20-foot rope climb in 7.6 seconds, and a 40-yard dash in 4.86 seconds. And he DIDN'T QUALIFY!! Well Mark, we're all still proud of your efforts. Not too many could match those numbers fourteen years after graduation. In his spare time, Mark is continuing his studies at the Wharton Business School. Mark and Kate have two children, Joshua (6) and Rachel (4). Mark will graduate from Wharton in May.

Ildefonso Pilot-Olive sent along this photo of his family, as well as this update:

...I married in 1990 to Brenda DeGrange, a DODDS elementary school teacher I met in Misawa, Japan while I was TAD there from Hawaii. Our son, Ildefonso (hey, I went through life with that name, so can he) was born in December 1993. His godfather is one of our Classmates, **Joseph Terlizese**, who is now at the Fleet Test and Evaluation Center in Norfolk. Joe married a couple of years before us to a beautiful lady named Kathy. She is doing extremely well as a fund-raising executive for Eye Banks International, an organization which provides donor corneas for corneal transplants. I am currently serving as the Assistant Naval Attache in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Attending the cocktail circuit. We are expecting our second child this October here in Argentina.



The Pilot-Olives

Ildefonso can be reached at USDAO Buenos Aires, Argentina, Unit 4327, APO AA, 34034-0008.

Well gang, that's about it for the month. After two months of exemplary behavior, I am again beyond my deadline, and relying on the good graces of the *Shipmate* staff to get this into print. See you all next month, and hopefully many of you at Homecoming. Until next month, GOOOOO CHARGERS!

'81 is Great! SKI

82

Membership: 98%

Pres., LCdr. **Thomas P. Garrison III USN**

Sec'y, LCdr. **Gus Anderson USN**
5446 Broadmoor St., Alexandria, VA 22310

Sadly I'm reporting the death of **Javier Suarez**. Javi died in July after fighting a two year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. To his wife, Ellen and his family, the Class sends its deepest sympathies.

Several Classmates have expressed an interest in dedicating a chair in Alumni Hall in honor of Javi. Donations are being accepted at the Alumni House C/O **Javier Suarez Memorial**, 247 King George Street, Annapolis Md. 21402-5068. The cost of the memorial chair is \$1000 and any donation made will be greatly appreciated.

I've got only one letter this month from none other than **John Kelly**. He and his wife, Anne are now the parents of their second son, Brendan Burns Kelly, born 12 May. Kel and crew are heading for Quantico in September after completing the Masters' at Monterey.

That's about it for this month. I hope to catch some of you at a football game or two on "our turf" at the stadium. Take care.

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address in order to continue
receiving Shipmate.
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your new address.**